

F&W COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: November 17, 2016

Agenda Item: Classification of Exotic Wildlife ARM
Callitrichidae (Primate family including Tamarins and Marmosets) – Prohibited

Division: Enforcement

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Min

Background

To be legally imported into Montana, exotic wildlife must be classified. A review committee evaluates petitions for such classifications. The committee - which includes FWP, the Montana Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Public Health and Human Services, a representative of the exotic pet trade, and a citizen with an interest in fish and wildlife makes recommendations to the Commission to classify exotic wildlife either as noncontrolled, controlled, or prohibited. Recommendations are based on:

- A. The environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, including ecological and economic impacts;
- B. The risk the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture; and
- C. The ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity.

Public Involvement Process & Results

A public comment period took place and a public hearing was held in Helena on September 27. The Commission received 7 written comments, 4 in support of the prohibition and 3 opposed, and had zero attendance at the public hearing.

Alternatives and Analysis

The Commission can decide not to adopt the amendments as proposed. The Commission can also decide to adopt the proposed amendments but without the Department's recommend language change.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

The Department recommends the Commission adopt the amendments as proposed and also recommends that the Commission accept the additional amendments to address the issue brought up during public comment. The additional amendments are needed to reflect a taxonomic change that occurred after classification of Cebidae in 2006. In 2009, the scientific community accepted the creation of three new families of primates from Cebidae: Aotidae, Atelidae and Pitheciidae. Members of those families were classified by the Commission as prohibited in 2006 when they were all in the family Cebidae. They now need to be included on our prohibited list under their new family names. The Commission does not need to solicit public comment as there is no substantive change.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission amend ARM 12.6.2215 as initially proposed and also with the Department's additional amendments addressing the taxonomic changes in 2009.